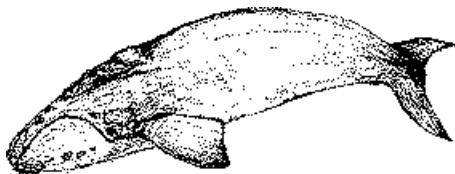


**Summary of  
the Final Rule  
Implementing**

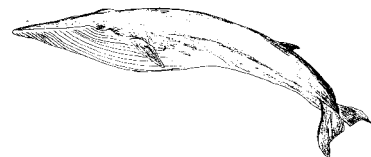
**The Atlantic Large Whale  
Take Reduction Plan**

**An evolving plan to reduce the risk to Northern right whales and to  
humpback, fin, and minke whales posed by lobster pot/trap and  
gillnet gear in the U.S. Atlantic Ocean**



**Contact:**

**George Liles  
NOAA/NMFS/NER  
(508) 495-2378  
or  
Teri Frady  
(508) 495-2239**



**February 1999**

## **Fishery-Specific Regulations**

### **American Lobster Trap/Pot Fisheries**

No floating line at the surface.

No wet storage of gear

#### **Cape Cod Bay**

Buoy lines marked (orange and red)

#### **January 1 through May 15**

All buoys must have a weak link with a maximum  
breaking strength of up to 500 lb (226.7 kg)

All traps must be set in either “doubles” or trawls of four or more traps

All buoy lines must be made of sinking line except for the bottom  
third of the line, which may be floating line

All ground lines between traps must be sinking line.

#### **May 15 to December 31**

At least two characteristics from the Take Reduction Technology List.

#### **Great South Channel**

Buoy lines marked (yellow and red)

#### **April 1 to June 30**

Closed to lobster gear

#### **July 1 to March 31**

Two characteristics from gear technology list (see page 13)

**American Lobster Trap/Pot Fisheries (continued)****Stellwagen Bank/Jeffreys Ledge**

Buoy lines marked (black and red)

Two characteristics from gear technology list

**Northern Lobster Waters (north of 41°30' N)**

One characteristic of gear technology list, year round

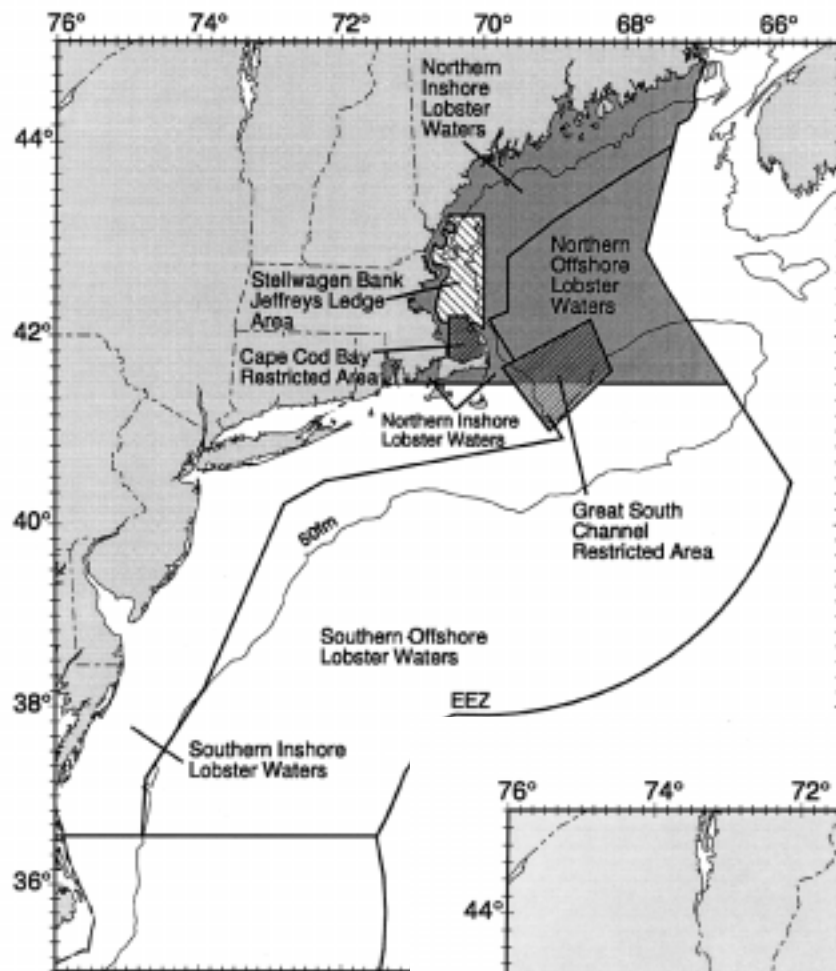
**Southern Lobster Waters (south of 41°30' N)**

December 1 to March 31

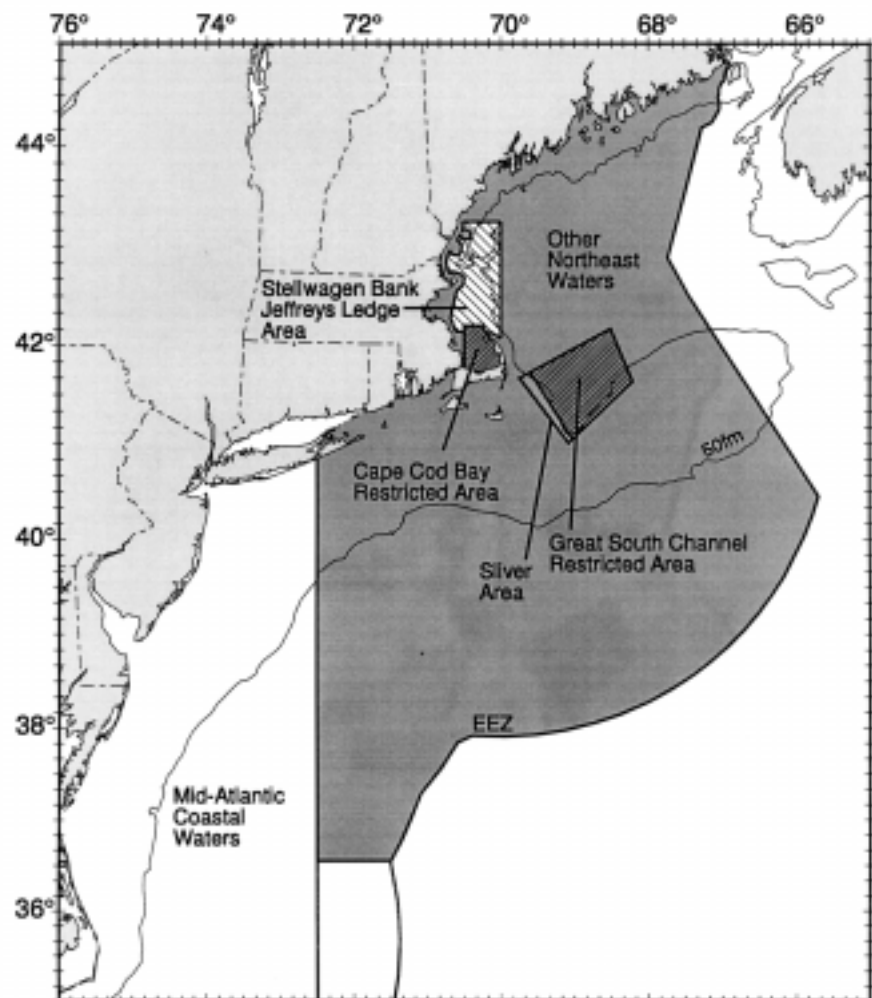
One characteristic of gear technology list

**The Lobster Take Reduction Technology List**

1. All buoy lines are 7/16 inches (1.11 cm) in diameter or less
2. All buoys are attached to the buoy line with a weak link having a maximum breaking strength of up to 1100 lb (498.8 kg). Weak links may include swivels, plastic weak links, rope of appropriate breaking strength, hog rings, or rope stapled to a buoy stick.
3. For lobster traps set in offshore lobster areas only, all buoys are attached to the buoy line with a weak link having a maximum breaking strength of up to 3780 lb (1714.3 kg)
4. For traps set in offshore lobster areas only, all buoys are attached to the buoy line by a section of rope no more than 3/4 the diameter of the buoy line
5. All buoy lines are composed entirely of sinking line
6. All ground lines are made of sinking line.



Lobster Gear Restrictions



Gillnet Gear Restrictions

## **Anchored Gillnet Fisheries**

No floating line at the surface.

### **Cape Cod Bay**

Buoy lines marked (orange and green)

January 1 through May 15

closed to gillnetting

May 15 to December 31

At least two characteristics from the Take Reduction Technology List

### **Great South Channel**

Buoy lines marked (yellow and green)

April 1 to June 30

Closed to gillnetting except Sliver Area

Two characteristics from gear technology list in Sliver Area

July 1 to March 31

Two characteristics from gear technology list

### **Stellwagen Bank/Jeffreys Ledge**

Buoy lines marked (black and green)

Two characteristics from gear technology list

### **Other Northeast Waters (east of 72°30' W)**

At least one characteristic from gear technology list

### **Mid-Atlantic Gillnets (west of 72°30'W, north of 33°51'N)**

December 1 to March 31

At least one characteristic from gear technology list from

## Gillnet Take Reduction Technology List

1. All buoy lines are 7/16 inches (1.11 cm) in diameter or less.
2. All buoys are attached to the buoy line with a weak link having a maximum breaking strength of up to 1100 lb (498.8 kg). Weak links may include swivels, plastic weak links, rope of appropriate breaking strength, hog rings, or rope stapled to a buoy stick.
3. Weak links with a breaking strength of up to 1100 lb (498.8 kg) are installed in the float rope between net panels.
4. All buoy lines are composed entirely of sinking line.

### Mid-Atlantic Coastal Gillnet Fishery - Drift Gillnets

From December 1 to March 31, no overnight sets  
unless gear is attached to the vessel

### Southeast U.S. Shark Gillnet Fishery

Gear marking required in SEUS observer area  
(blue and green)

#### From November 15 to March 31

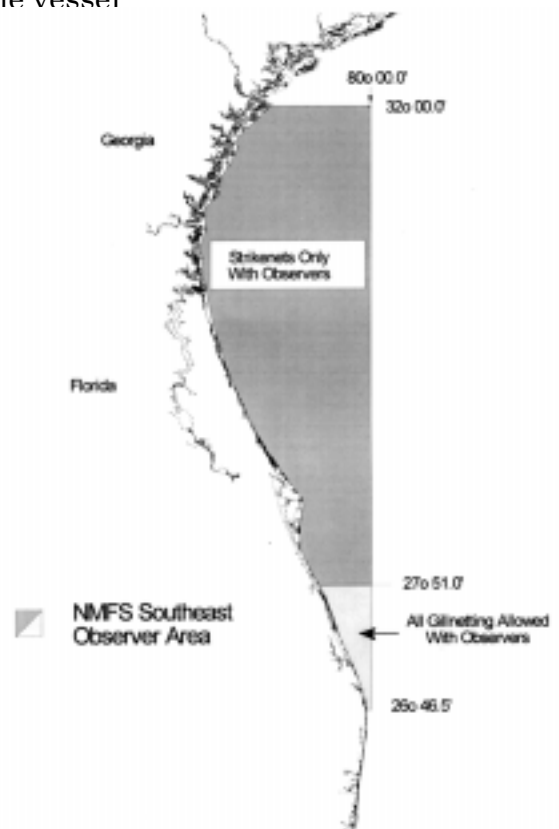
Critical habitat closed to gillnetting, except strikenet

Call-in required before fishing in observer area

Strikenetting allowed in critical habitat

and observer area only if:

- (A) No nets are set at night or when visibility is less than 500 yards (460 m)
- (B) Each set is made under the observation of a spotter plane.
- (C) No net is set within 3 nautical miles of a right, humpback, fin or minke whale.
- (D) If a right, humpback, fin or minke whale moves within 3 nautical miles of the set gear, the gear is removed immediately from the water.



*November 15 to March 31  
Shark Gillnetting*